

WELCOME TO SLAUSON ORCHESTRA!

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Essential Elements Interactive Book 1 for your instrument
- Rosin
- Shoulder Rest or Rock Stop
- Extra set of strings
- Cleaning Cloth
- Pencil

INSTRUMENTS

All students who play the violin or viola are requested to rent or purchase their own instrument. Cello and Bass players are encouraged to rent as well. AAPS does provide cellos and basses to be used at school because these large instruments are not permitted on busses. In cases of demonstrated need, the use of an AAPS instrument may be permitted.

Obtaining a String Instrument:

When renting or purchasing a stringed instrument, it is important to obtain the correct size. An instrument that is too large can cause poor playing position and will impede progress. At Orientation/Schedule pick-up or the first two days of school, Orchestra students will report to Orchestra class during their assigned hour. They will be sized. The next step is to obtain an instrument. **Shopping online for stringed instruments is not a good idea.** Typically, they are of low quality and playing/ tuning the instrument are difficult. It is best for your child to learn on a quality sounding instrument. Contact [Ms. Gibson](#) for information about acquiring an instrument.

Rent-to-Own:

All of the listed music stores offer a rent-to-own plan. Advantages to renting includes trading up sizes and investing over time for the purchase of a higher quality full-sized instrument. Ask the following questions when comparison shop:

- What is the quality of the instrument?
- How much of the rental fee goes toward the purchase of the instrument?
- What is the repair and insurance policy?
- What materials and equipment are included in the rental?

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Purchasing Used:

Buyer beware! **Again, shopping online for stringed instruments is not a good idea.**

Here are some tips for purchasing used instruments:

- Learn the price of a NEW student instrument before you shop used.
- Music store purchases are practical if they offer a warranty.
- The internet is NEVER the place to find good quality stringed instruments. Often times the cost for set-up, initial repairs, and additional equipment to make the instrument playable is not worth the savings you may find.
- If you purchase from a private party or friend, consider borrowing the instrument or leaving a deposit. Bring it to a music teacher or music store to be inspected.

String Instrument Music Dealers:

Shar Products

2465 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor

www.sharmusic.com

Baroque Violin Shop

www.baroqueviolinshop.com

contact Robin Bloomberg